

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 222
By Cross

A RESOLUTION relative to the Governor's proposed
reorganization of state government.

WHEREAS, Governor Sundquist has proposed a significant reorganization of State
Government; and

WHEREAS, such proposal includes the abolishment by statute of the Department of
Mental Health and Mental Retardation; and

WHEREAS, further elements of the reorganization propose the functions and
responsibilities of the respective divisions of the Department of Mental Health and Mental
Retardation being merged into an expanded Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, the expanded Department of Health would be composed of four new
Divisions: Public Health, TennCare, Mental Health, and Mental Retardation; and

WHEREAS, the proposal as submitted offers little explanation as to the impact of
efficiency and cost savings relative to such reorganization; and

WHEREAS, such proposal would adversely affect the visibility of the service needs and
other issues relative to individuals with mental retardation; and

WHEREAS, services to such individuals are presently already undergoing significant
changes and reorganization as the result of respective Federal Court Orders and Settlement
Agreements; and

97651483

97651483

005718

00571816

WHEREAS, the prospect of additional reorganization of services for individuals with mental retardation is of questionable wisdom at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That while we support the concepts of better government expressed in the objectives of the Governor's proposal, this General Assembly expresses its concern about the judiciousness of the proposed abolishment of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and the subsequent merger of such department's functions and responsibilities into an expanded Department of health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we hereby request the Governor to provide to this Body additional information specifically delineating the efficiency and cost savings that would be effected by such reorganization prior to the General Assembly's final consideration of such proposal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge and encourage the Governor to implement a comprehensive study of the total delivery system for mental retardation services, with an opportunity for public input being a significant component of such study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee.